

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, May 11, 2015

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, May 11, 2015, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, John Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 PM.

Present: John Bento, Chair; Diana Campbell, William O'Dell, John Saviano, Erin Schofield and Lynn Wainwright; Mario J. Andrade, Superintendent; Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy & Title 1; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration & Finance

Absent: Paul Silva, Vice-Chairman; Karen Lynch, Secretary; Marjorie McBride, Treasurer;

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ACCOLADES

The Bristol Warren School Committee and the Bristol Warren School

District thanked The Reverend Canon David J. Lucey and the congregation of St. Michael's Episcopal Church for offering to dedicate the first collection of each month of calendar year 2016 to support the programs provided by the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center. This generous offer is sincerely appreciated and exemplifies the true spirit of community.

Dr. Andrade personally thanked The Reverend Canon David J. Lucey and the congregation of St. Michael's Episcopal Church for their generous support. Dr. Andrade commented that generosity such as this provides for necessary support inside the classroom walls and within the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**116 Bayview Ave
Bristol, RI 02809**

May 11, 2014

**Bristol Warren Regional School District School Committee
151 State Street
Bristol, RI 02809**

Dear Mr. Bento and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer public comment. As many of

you know, for the past several months, I've been working diligently to help you educate the public on the proposed Comprehensive Assessment Policy and I have, during the course of that time, offered many of you my thoughts on the matter.

I wanted to share with you my experience as an engaged member of the public. First, I'd like to take the time to applaud and thank those members of this committee who have been respectful and open to hearing commentary, who have been responsive and willing to listen to my thoughts and who have been genuinely willing to engage in a respectful discourse.

I also feel the need to say, for the record, that not all members of this committee have been so open. When I requested the opportunity to talk to members of this committee about the very broad and critical Comprehensive Assessment Policy, I was told by one member of this committee that she was "done talking about this policy" and that we should "agree to disagree" despite the fact that she and I have never had a conversation about it. I'm grateful to those of you who listen and don't talk over those who have the floor, those who refrain from eye rolling when someone is expressing a dissenting opinion and those who see, as I do, their role on this committee as a public service.

I come here and spend my time talking to you about issues that mean a great deal to me for the betterment of our community. I have but a

few minutes to give you my comments in a setting such as this. To deny me an audience or to make it abundantly clear that you aren't going to try to understand or actually listen reflects poorly on the committee as a whole, and I believe discourages others from coming forward to share their viewpoints. Civil discourse, particularly among those who disagree, is a cornerstone of democracy. I believe that the work of this committee is crucial to the social and economic vitality of our community and I look forward to continued respectful discourse with you in the future.

Thank you,

Tracy Ramos

AGENDA FOCUS

COZ PRESENTATION

Patricia Brissette, Coordinator, Bristol Warren Family Resource Center - A Child Opportunity Zone (COZ) program, thanked the School Committee for inviting the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center to present this evening. Ms. Brissette personally thanked the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Administrators for their support of the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center.

Ms. Brissette also extended a thank you to The Reverend Lucey and St. Michael's Congregation for their generous gift to the Bristol

Warren Family Resource Center. She shared how the donations will be used for programs within the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center.

Ms. Brissette introduced, Emily Pearce-Spence, Program Manager for Bristol Warren Family Resource Center's Parents As Teachers (PAT) program which is an international home visiting program.

Ms. Pearce-Spence shared the history of the Parents As Teachers (PAT) program from its inception in Missouri 30 years ago to its active history in Bristol and Warren for the past 21 years. Ms. Pearce-Spence described the many benefits offered to families through the Parents As Teachers (PAT) program.

Molly Marston, Michelle Katafiasz and Nicky Piper shared personal testimonies, from a parent's perspective, regarding their excellent experiences with the Parents as Teachers Program.

Kristine Campagna, Chief Program Development of Early Childhood Newborn Screening and Follow-Up Programs, Department of Health, shared about the Department of Health's collaborative work with the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center, the School Department, RIDE and parents within the community. Ms. Campagna emphasized the importance of early childhood experiences and school readiness commending the Parents As Teachers program for focusing on those needs.

Ms. Pearce-Spence closed by sharing the key components of the Parents As Teachers Program which lead to school readiness for the child.

Ms. Pearce-Spence introduced the Thrive by Five and Beyond Program which she cofounded with Donna Ramos-Razza. The group was modeled after Newport's Thrive by Five Group. The group is comprised of representatives from Bradley Hospital, DCYF, the Women's Resource Center and the Bristol and Warren Substance Abuse Task Force. The Thrive by Five and Beyond group meets monthly to share information from their individual fields and program offerings to strengthen support to the families.

Ms. Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, shared the goals, mission and accomplishments of the East Bay Thrive by Five & Beyond program.

Ms. Brissette introduced Elizabeth Brito, Executive Director, Rhode Island Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (RIASCD) & the Whole Child Initiative.

Ms. Brito thanked the Superintendent and Administrative team for the invitation to share about Rhode Island Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (RIASCD) & the Whole Child Initiative.

Ms. Brito explained RIASCD's mission, goals and programs.

Ms. Brito introduced Ms. Rosemary Reilly Chammat, Ed. D, Chairwoman, RIASCD Whole Child Steering Committee.

Ms. Reilly Chammat expanded upon the following points of the Whole Child Initiative:

- the five tenets of the Whole Child Initiative**
- the importance and benefits of the Whole Child Approach**
- growing support for RIASCD's Whole Child Initiative by the RI General Assembly**
- Whole Child Initiative in action**
- Whole Child Initiative – next steps**
- School Committee adoption of Whole Child Resolution**
- School Committee application for Whole Child Recognition Award**

Ms. Brissette thanked the School Committee and Administrators for their support and for the opportunities afforded to the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center.

Dr. Andrade thanked Ms. Brissette for her leadership and for the continuous improvement shown through the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center programs.

Dr. Andrade emphasized the importance of recognizing that the

Bristol Warren Family Resource Center services over 500 students annually and is a totally self-sufficient program. The programs of the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center are provided at no cost to the taxpayers of Bristol and Warren. Dr. Andrade thanked Ms. Brissette for her excellent fiscal planning.

Mrs. Wainwright mentioned that the National School Board Association is going to be hosting a luncheon conference in Boston at which time an award for outstanding learning opportunities will be presented. Mrs. Wainwright stated that the East Bay Thrive By Five & Beyond Program will be submitted for this award. She added that there will be cash prizes associated with the award. Mrs. Wainwright thanked Ms. Brissette and her employees for all that they do.

Mr. O'Dell asked for clarification on what benchmarks a school would possess when practicing a whole child approach.

Ms. Reilly Chammat responded that the whole child approach is part of the framework currently being practiced within the District to support children and their families. Dr. Andrade added that the Bristol Warren Regional School District Administrators have been engaged in the Whole Child conversation for over ten years and are participating members in ASCD. Dr. Andrade stated that the philosophy has been in place within the District, but it wasn't referred to as "Whole Child". The District, however, has delivered the same message of the Whole Child Initiative. Dr. Andrade reiterated that the

Whole Child Initiative is not new to the District, but just a clearer way to communicate to the community that the District supports the whole child.

Mr. O'Dell asked what the confidence level is that the entire community is aware of the programs offered by the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center. He shared about a program that the Post Office offers, where fliers can be dispersed to an entire community.

Chairman Bento thanked all those who presented this evening to share about the beneficial programs of the Bristol Warren Family Resource Center. He thanked Ms. Brissette for her vision and dedication, and thanked the parents for their testimonials.

Chairman Bento stated that the School Committee will be looking to add the Whole Child Resolution as an agenda item for a future meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

Chairman Bento stated, for the record, that the order of business would be adjusted slightly for the remainder of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION #S2015-27

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the School Committee Resolution on Gun Free Schools.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the School Committee Resolution on Gun Free Schools; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Bento thanked Mr. Jerry Belair, President of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, for being present to answer questions.

Several School Committee members shared personal testimonies to further stress their support for approving the School Committee Resolution on Gun Free Schools.

Mr. O'Dell stated that he agrees with the Resolution on Gun Free Schools conceptually, but had a few questions related to item #5 and #9 of the resolution. Mr. Belair clarified those points for Mr. O'Dell.

The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:47 P.M.

Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5 (a)(1) for the following:

1. Personnel - Layoffs

Chairman Bento stated that the open session will reconvene after the Executive Session to take action on the Personnel Recommendations and to continue with the remaining order of business.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:07 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2015-26 - Personnel - Layoffs

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to approve the Personnel recommendations; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

School Committee Goals

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adopt the School Committee Goals; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Wainwright made several suggestions for several changes/additions to the School Committee Goals. A discussion ensued.

Mrs. Schofield also made a suggestion for an additional item to the School Committee Goals. A discussion ensued.

A determination was made by the Chairman to accept the School Committee Goals as written due to the proximity to the end of the school year.

The School Committee Goals discussion will be revisited in August to allow for further clarification of the requested changes made this evening.

The motion passed with a 4-1 vote; Mr. O'Dell dissenting.

Shout Out Successes

Mrs. Campbell thanked the Bristol Warren Education Foundation for sponsoring the Food Truck 5K event this past weekend.

Mrs. Wainwright shared highlights from the Grease production put on by the MHHS Masqueraders. She highly commended the performances and production.

Mrs. Wainwright congratulated Chartwells for the new initiative "Just Cookies", a completely vegan cookie.

Mrs. Wainwright thanked everyone involved in the Take Charge of Your Child's Digital Life presentation. She shared important highlights from the seminar. Mrs. Wainwright thanked the staff that was present and commended the parents that did participate.

Mr. Saviano commented on the important value of the Take Charge of Your Child's Digital Life presentation. He commended Mrs. Wainwright for organizing and MCing the two hour event. Mr. Saviano thanked all those who presented during the event. Mr. Saviano believes the District should offer the Take Charge of Your Child's Digital Life program for all student orientations and for parents.

Mrs. Schofield commended all students in the District immersed in PARCC testing for their hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 9:47 P.M.

Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2) for the following:

1. Warren Litigation

Chairman Bento stated that no action will be taken during the Executive Session. The Open Session will only reconvene to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:07 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Wainwright. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:08 P.M.

MOTION: At 10:08 PM Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd